

cupboard; hauling water from the Duchesne River when our "pasture-ized" water froze up in the fall; saying good-bye to the boys leaving for the armed forces and wondering if our turn would be next; Doug losing a horse over Rocky Sea Pass; and the time Cliff Roberts tipped his truck over and we all had lamb. I could go on and on, but I must stop and say to all of you THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.

Doug and Jodie

ALMA W. and ESTHER HUNSAKER WAGSTAFF

Alma Wilkinson Wagstaff, second bishop of Tabiona Ward, was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 18, 1862. He was a son of William Wagstaff and Emily Lim, converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. William was a horticulturist and was in charge of caring for property owned by Brigham Young, and also for property belonging to the Church.

Alma followed in his father's footsteps and had the "green thumb". He was a good carpenter. The homes of Mrs. Blanche Wagstaff and Leo and Florence Turnbow were built by him. He was also a farmer and sawmill man, a vocation that was followed by a son, Claude, and now by a grandson, Gale Wagstaff.

Esther Hunsaker was born February 29, 1868, a leap year baby, at Brigham City, Utah. Her parents were Abraham Hunsaker and Katherine Jensen, also converts to Mormonism.

Her father entered into plural marriage, so Esther was part of a very large family. She received very good training and attended school at Brigham City and Honeyville, named in honor of her father.

Alma and Esther were married November 27, 1889, in the Logan L.D.S. Temple. Their first home was in Mendon, Cache County, Utah. They moved to Honeyville, Box Elder County, then to Park City, Utah, where Alma worked as a carpenter in the mines. After a few years they moved to Charleston, Utah. They moved to this valley in 1910, and homesteaded the farm now owned by William and Carlene Williams.

Alma and Esther were parents of eleven children, six of whom were raised to maturity. They are: Claude Lorin, (third Bishop of Tabiona Ward) married 1. Armina Shephard, 2. Blanche Oberhansley; Ada Lula married Joseph E. Rhoades; and Orpha Ellis married Marvin L. Michie. These three children made their home and raised children in this valley.

Ada's twin sister, Ila Lily, married George Green, died in Provo in 1933. Durey Dermont married Afton Dixon, resides in Orem. Alta LaVerne died at the age of sixteen in Roosevelt, Utah. The children who died in infancy were Lorenzo, Esther May, Lester, Joseph, and LaDacy.

Alma and Esther both died the same year. Esther died March 16, 1938, in Provo, Utah, of natural causes. Alma died November 3, 1938, in Salt Lake City, struck by an automobile while crossing a street. Both are buried in the Tabiona Cemetery.



Alma W. and Esther Hunsaker Wagstaff, 1917

Their posterity numbers in the hundreds.

Esther H. Wagstaff was born February 29, 1868, at Brigham City, Utah, a daughter of Abraham and Katherine Jensen Hunsaker. Her father practiced plural marriage, and so Esther grew up surrounded by many brothers and sisters. The Hunsaker children received all the formal education available. The girls were well trained in the art of homemaking.

Abraham Hunsaker was a patriarch and presided over his families very well. At the age of fifteen, Esther was "called" to go to Salt Lake City, to study obstetrics under Dr. Ellis Skipp. She was able to learn quickly and well. In her patriarchal blessing, given to Esther by her father as she left home for Salt Lake City, were these words: "You have a very important work to do, and if you go willingly, and do your best, relying on the Lord, He will help you, and you will always have success."

Esther received her license to practice midwifery from Dr. Skipp with the comment, "You are the best student I have ever had". The first "official" call came for Esther when she was seventeen. She already had much practical experience by accompanying Dr. Skipp on her calls. Esther continued her vocation after her marriage. As her own children began to arrive, the support of her husband, family and friends helped very much.

Before 1905, registering births was not required, and so there is no record of the number of births attended by Esther. From 1905 until 1936-37, at least twenty-five hundred babies were brought into this world by the loving hands of "Grandma Wagstaff."

As the Wagstaff family moved from Mendon, Cache County, Utah, (their first home) to Park City and then to Charleston, Esther continued her practice. Medical doctors in the communities appreciated her service and never tried in any way to discredit her.

Esther did most of her work as a midwife while living in Charleston, traveling all over Heber Valley. She went by herself, with horse and buggy in summertime, and in the winter by sleigh. One winter day, as he was returning to

her home in Charleston from Midway, where she cared for five mothers and babies, the shafts of the cutter (sleigh) loosened and fell, striking the heels of her horse. The horse began to run, and as Esther tried to step out, she was thrown to the ground. The fall resulted in a sprained left knee, broken right arm, and dislocated right shoulder. Her shoulder was not reset properly and formed a new socket. She suffered the remainder of her life with a stiff right arm that could not be raised to her head and could not bend backward.

When the Wagstaff family moved to Tabiona in 1910, Esther was immediately called to serve, not only as a midwife, but for illness, broken bones, etc., in the valley. The blessing she received under the hands of her father was fulfilled, because Esther never became ill, despite all the communicable disease she came in contact with. When she entered a home of illness or childbirth, she not only cared for the sick, but for the family and home as well. When a death occurred, she and other sisters of the valley would "lay out the body," trim the casket and make the burial (temple) clothing.

Esther was first counselor in the Relief Society presidency from 1911, when the Tabiona Ward was organized, until 1921, and so she also had a great responsibility there.

Esther never refused a call, and many times she received nothing but a thank you and a promise to pay later. When she went into a home where clothing and food were scarce, on the next visit the needed food and clothing went with her. She truly was an angel of mercy.

After a few years, the Wagstaffs moved to Provo. Esther was tired and needed rest, but friends from all over the Uintah Basin either wanted to go to Esther's home in Provo to be confined, or wanted her to come to their home.

Knowing that she was needed, Esther moved back to Tabiona, continuing her service, going day or night, whenever and wherever she was needed. During these years, her health deteriorated very rapidly. Her family took her back to Provo where medical help for her could be obtained. The years of service she had given to others proved to be too much. She passed from this life on March 16, 1938, at Provo. Her body was brought "back home" and after a funeral service that showed the love and respect due her, she was laid to rest in the Tabiona Cemetery.

These words are taken from a history of Esther Hunsaker Wagstaff, written by a daughter, Orpha Ellis Wagstaff Michie, "I have never wanted publicity or praise. I leave no heirlooms to be remembered by. I just want to be appreciated".

Esther Hunsaker Wagstaff was appreciated.

Alma Wagstaff came to his homestead on the lower Duchesne River in 1907 or 1908. He built a two-room log cabin on the river bank. While he was working, an Indian rode up and stopped to watch. He tried to tell Mr. Wagstaff something, but he couldn't make him understand. The next spring when high water came down the river, Alma Wagstaff understood what Ephraim had tried to tell him.

After he built his cabin and moved his family out to the homestead, he returned to Charleston, Utah. He tore his home down there, numbering every piece of lumber. Then he hauled them out and built his home back again just like it had been in Charleston. Lumber was very hard to get when the people first moved out here.

My Grandma Esther was a midwife and an expert in her field. Every baby for miles around was helped into this world by her.

They had five children when they came to the ranch. These children were Claude, Ada, Orpha, Alta, and Dermont.



Claude

HISTORY OF CLAUDE LORIN WAGSTAFF FAMILY

I was born on April 17, 1891, in Mendon, Cache County Utah. My parents were Alma Wilkinson Wagstaff and Esther Hunsaker. I don't remember much about Mendon. Dad was logging while we lived there. We moved to Charleston, Utah and I spent most of my boyhood days there. I started with a band in Charleston when I was fourteen. Robert Krebs was our band teacher. We would march and play our band at night. We carried torches to light the way. We used to play for election rallies. One night we had to stay all night in Heber so they fed us and gave us a bed.

We used to herd sheep for a man named Baker. He paid me 15 cents a day. I was camp cook. One night when I came home, my mother wasn't expecting me and I walked in the house and I about scared my mother to death because I was as dirty as a pig.

Then we moved to Park City. We used to sleigh ride on bob sleds at Park City. I went to school in Ontario Canyon, in a one-room school house. We had only one teacher. He was a strict man. If we would do anything wrong, we would have to come up to the front of the class and hold out our hands and he would whack them with a stick. If we would pull our hands back, he would whack us on the head.